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*Copy of a Letter from the Governor-General and Council, to  
the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President, &c.  
of the Council at Fort St. George.*

“ My Lord, and Gentlemen,

ON the 31st of last month we acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 13th, inclosing a copy of all your proceedings relative to Tanjore. We have taken these proceedings into our most serious consideration, and have unanimously agreed in resolutions on such parts of them, as by their importance demanded our first and immediate attention, and by their nature and tendency called for the interposition of the controuling power vested in us by Parliament over the Presidency of Madras. We inclose you a copy of these resolutions; and positively require you to abstain from all such acts and declarations in future as we have thereby condemned; declaring to you, that we shall hold your President, or any other member of your Board, who shall act in contradiction to the sense of the above resolutions, to be guilty of a wilful violation of the rights of the Nabob, and a disturber of the peace of the Carnatic.

“ We have confined our resolutions to such undisputed facts as had a direct and immediate tendency to alienate the mind of the Nabob from his friendship and alliance with the Company, and to interrupt the tranquillity of that part of India. But we see on the face of your proceedings several other acts of which we equally disapprove, and on some of which we think it necessary to require a further explanation from you.

“ We cannot avoid remarking, through the whole tenor of your President's conduct and behaviour to the Nabob, manifest symptoms of a strong personal indisposition towards him, heightened by a tone of authority unbecoming the Nabob's dignity and independency, and inconsistent with the respect which the Company have, in all their letters, directed to be shewn to him. A remarkable instance of this has been furnished us by the Nabob himself, in the draft\* of a letter presented to the Nabob by Lord Pigot, and required to be written by him to his Lordship, containing an approval of his conduct, and an assurance of forgiveness for what had passed. We allude particularly to this instance, because it affords us, at the same time, too strong a presumption, that the offers which the Raja of Tanjore has so liberally made, in opposition to his own interest, may have been drawn from him by the same indirect kind of influence. This is again corroborated by a resolution entered in your proceedings of the 25th of April†, that it was necessary the whole country of Tanjore should be protected by the forces of the Company; and by the request made by the Raja, almost in the same words, at the meeting which he soon afterwards had with the President, that the Company's forces might be allowed for the protection of his whole country; and is still more strongly confirmed by his request, that the Company would take what country they thought proper as a dependency on Devi Cota, by his declaration that the country of Tanjore was the Company's, and that he had only to request his honour might be preserved, and by his tender‡ of all the grain in his dominions to be purchased by the Company, which are expressions such as were never voluntarily used by any independent Prince, however grateful he might be, for the services rendered to him.

“ Notwithstanding the request of the Raja thus made, we cannot but consider the measure of employing the Company's forces for the protection of the whole country of Tanjore as unwarranted, and repugnant to the spirit of the Company's orders. It is very evident, that the Company intended to restrict the employment of their troops to the garrisoning the city of Tanjore; but left to the Raja's discretion the general defence of his dominions. The purposes assigned for placing an English garrison in the fort of Tanjore, in the sixth paragraph of their orders, and the provision made in the twelfth paragraph, for the march of their troops into the country of Tanjore, at the requisition of the Raja, in case of troubles, added to their declaration in the seventh paragraph, that no diminution of the Raja's authority over his own subjects was intended by them, put this construction beyond a doubt, were it necessary to seek for negative arguments where a positive authority is wanting to support the measure.

“ The subsidy fixed for the payment of the garrison of Tanjore, and for the other forces employed in the protection of the country, is another deviation from the orders of the Court of Directors, which direct, that no greater portion of the revenues shall be assigned to the Company than may be absolutely necessary for the support of their garrison.

“ We observe that in the motion made by the Right Honourable President for the appointment of a Chief and Council to reside at Tanjore, which, on failure of that proposal, was afterwards adopted, was declared to be for fulfilling the same purposes in part that were proposed for the Council; we shall suspend our opinions upon this measure for the present, but think it necessary to desire that you will furnish us with a copy of the instructions delivered to Mr. Ruffel, declaring at the same time, that we shall consider any authority given him to interfere in the affairs of that government, as a breach of the Company's positive orders: at present we cannot consider his appointment as having any other object than the above. We are much afraid it will have that appearance in the eyes of the other neighbouring powers, and that it will be too liable to suggest to them the apprehension that the Act of restoring the Raja of Tanjore to the possession of his dominions, was only a pretence for the vesting the Sovereignty and Government of that country in the Company, under the name of the Raja of Tanjore.

“ The Nabob, both in his letters to your President, and in his correspondence with Government, has complained, that Lord Pigot had caused a Proclamation to be made in the Fort, and through all the Districts of Tanjore, “ That no one should give Protection or Rice to any of his (the Nabob's) People, but bring them forth, and even that, if any Person gave shelter to his Servants, he should be considered as criminal.” And, “ That some of his most creditable and antient Servants, who were at Tanjore, had been treated with indignity by the Dependants of Lord Pigot, and that some of them were detained in Prison, by the Raja, so late as in the month of May last.” We expected to have found some notice of the complaints in your proceedings. We desire that you will furnish us with the fullest information of facts to which they allude.

“ We have also received a later remonstrance from the Nabob, on the subject of orders issued, as he affirms, by Lord Pigot, “ for the seizure of one of the Nabob's principal Servants, named Mahomed Hebrax Cawn, by a party of Sepoys, “ who forcibly entered the Kella of Woodian Polly, belonging to him, for that purpose, and searched all the houses for the

\* Copy of the draft of a letter given by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, that he might write it to him; the original in pencil dated the 11th April should be May; error of the month in the original.

“ I am very happy at my friend's return. I forgive you for every thing you have done. The man who is faithful to his master will ever be so to his friend. Now you have finished the Company's business, I hope you will not forget mine. I will lay before you the whole state of my affairs, and I desire your assistance to settle them to the satisfaction of the Company, that I may be happy.”

N. B. The Nabob refused to write this letter, which irritated Lord Pigot so much that he threatened to place an European guard over his house.

† When Lord Pigot had the majority of voices at the Board. See the dissents in the proceedings.

‡ The Governor General and Council never answered Lord Pigot's request for money to purchase the grain, although they replied to every other part of that same letter.



"person they were in quest of, but not finding him, they carried away and ill-treated many of the inhabitants." We desire to be furnished also with an explanation of this affair.

"The Nabob has requested, that a Resident might be appointed on the part of this Government, to remain with him, as such a measure might imply a distrust in us, whether the resolutions we have taken, and now communicate to you, will be efficacious; we have for the present determined to decline complying with the Nabob's desire, and hope an alteration in your measures and conduct towards him, will produce a return of that confidence and attachment to your Government, which has so unalterably subsisted, until the late unhappy difference took place\*.

"We desire that you will transmit to us, a copy of the orders delivered by Lord Pigot, to Captain Tonyn, for escorting the Dobeer to Tanjore, of Captain Tonyn's report of the execution of those orders; and that you will also call Captain Tonyn before you, and ask him, whether Ariolore is an open or inclosed town? Whether he met with any opposition in the execution of his orders, or in leaving the place? and in what situation he found the Dobeer? His replies upon these several questions, you will be pleased to transmit to us, as well as to the Court of Directors, by the first opportunity.

"Having condemned the expulsion of the Nabob's agents and troops from certain districts of Marawa and Naalcooty, justice requires and we direct, that he be permitted to repossess those districts, if he still persists in his claim to them; and that Commissioners be appointed in any manner which shall be approved by his Highness and the Raja, to examine upon the spot their respective pretensions, and to decide upon them; such a decision ought to be admitted as binding on both parties; but, in case it should not prove so, or if the Commissioners should not agree in their award, we desire that a copy of their proceedings be transmitted to us, that we may offer our final sentiments and mediation upon them.

"We are desirous that you should be apprized of these our sentiments and resolutions before the departure of the Grenville for England, and we hope that the request contained in our letter of the 31st, will not have been the occasion of much delay in the dispatch of that ship.

We are, my Lord and Gentlemen, &c,

WARREN HASTINGS.  
J. CLAVERING.  
J. MONSON.  
RICHARD BARWELL.  
PHILIP FRANCIS.

## R E S O L U T I O N S.

*Secret Department. Extract of Consultation, August 7, 1776.*

Copy of Resolutions of the Council at Bengal.

1st, *Resolved*, "That the detaching an Officer with a party of the Company's Troops into the town of Alianore, situated within the Nabob's dominions; the forcing away the Nabob's guards stationed there, and the seizing his Officers and Servants, with all his papers, public and private, and carrying them prisoners to Tanjore, were acts of hostility against the Nabob; that they were not necessary to carry the Company's order and intentions into execution, nor justified by their instructions for restoring the King of Tanjore."

2d, *Resolved*, "That the threat expressed by the President personally to the Nabob, that he would station a guard at the Nabob's house, for the declared purpose of intercepting any communication between him, the members of the Council, and other Europeans, his Majesty's subjects †, was an invasion of the Nabob's rights, as an independent Prince, and might justly alarm him for the safety of his person."

3d, *Resolved*, "That the forcible expulsion of the Nabob's agents and troops from certain Districts of Marawa and Naalcooty, without any previous application to the Nabob, was an act of hostility against his Highness unauthorized and unnecessary."

4th, *Resolved*, "That the President's declaration ‡, that if the gates of Alianore, or any other gates in the Payinhaut, should be shut against the troops of the Company, when they asked admission by his authority, it would be an improper return to the man who had put his Highness in possession of them; implies a general denial of the Nabob's right to refuse admittance of the Company's troops into any of his Forts or Garrisons, and founds that denial on a supposed personal ingratitude to the President, not on a breach of the regard and friendship due to the Company, as if his Highness's obligation for being put into possession of such Forts and Garrisons, was due to the President alone, in exclusion of the Company.

5th, *Resolved*, "That the President's declaration §, "that whenever the Nabob's business should be connected with the interest of the Company, he would always act as to him should appear proper, and make use of the Nabob's authority," was equivalent to an assumption to himself of all the powers vested in the lawful Nabob of the Carnatic."

6th, *Resolved*, "That these several acts and declarations, collectively and separately, are an infringement of the rights and powers inherent therein, and dependent on his Highness's title, as lawful Nabob of the Carnatic, in which character he is acknowledged by the treaty of Paris; that they tend to reduce him to a mere nominal Nabob, and to alienate his mind from that faithful attachment to the English Company, of which they declare they have had long experience."

7th, *Resolved*, "That the acts and declarations above recited, have a direct and immediate tendency to disturb the peace of the Carnatic, and are unwarranted and unjust."

8th, *Resolved*, "That this Board will support the rights of the lawful Nabob of the Carnatic against all such attempts in future; and that they will exert, with effect, the power vested in them by the Legislature, for superintending and controuling the Government of the Presidency of Madras, and for the preservation of the peace in the Carnatic.

(A true Copy)

Fort William,  
7th August 1776.

S. P. AURIOL, Secretary."

\* Lord Pigot has declared, that the Dobeer voluntarily returned to Tanjore, and that the Nabob used compulsion to get him into his service after the reduction of Tanjore.

† The Raja of Tanjore had actually imprisoned the Dobeer before the war; it may be therefore supposed, that the Nabob had no occasion to use compulsion with him. When Capt. Tonyn overtook the Dobeer, he was in the Nabob's dominions, and returned with reluctance to Tanjore, from the fear of being imprisoned a second time. Oppoo's letter is a clear proof that there was no great harmony subsisting between the Raja and the Dobeer.

‡ See the preceding letter of the Governor-General and Council, with the remark.

§ Lord Pigot's declaration, a letter to the Nabob, in May.

|| Another of Lord Pigot's letters to the Nabob in May.



*Letter from the Governor General and Council, received about the 6th October.*

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq; President, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

" Gentlemen,

Par. 1. " We have received your letter of the \* 23d August by the Shrewsbury, and we have also received a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, dated the 29th August †, by the Triton.

2. " Having maturely considered the subject of these letters, we proceed immediately to acquaint you with our determination upon them.

3. " The Rights and Powers of the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, being by the original Constitution vested in the majority of the members who compose that body; and the intemperate conduct of your late President, Lord Pigot, in forcibly excluding two of your Members from their Seat at the Board, having been the cause of the unhappy separation of the majority of your Board from the minority in this alarming and dangerous situation of your government; we think it incumbent on us to declare, that we acknowledge the title and authority which ‡ we understand you have been thus compelled to assume; in consequence whereof, we have resolved to support you in the Government by all the means you may require from us; and we have it in our power to grant, in virtue of our general instructions, to afford our aid and protection to all the Presidences of the Company in India.

4. " Although you have not yet notified to us §, that you have assumed the administration of the Presidency of Fort St. George, nor informed us of all the circumstances which produced that event; yet we are too well apprised of the series of transactions which led to it, to entertain a doubt with respect to the conduct we ought to pursue on this occasion; and the crisis is too urgent and alarming, to admit of our waiting to enter into a more minute investigation of all the facts and proceedings which have reduced the Government of Fort St. George to its present situation, and us to the necessity of deciding upon it. It is sufficient for us to know, that in supporting that part of a divided administration, which is formed by a majority of its members, we support the legal and constitutional government.

5. " We judge it proper, however, to mention, that we should have been very glad to offer our mediation to conciliate past differences, instead of pursuing this more decisive line which we have adopted, had we conceived any hopes of success; but we feared that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of success in promoting that desirable end, might have been attended with consequences more fatal than any which can result from our present decided resolution.

6. " After so recent an example of the disposition of your late President, as appeared in his conduct towards the Nabob; and while our decision on the appeal, which was made to us by the Nabob on that occasion was yet depending, we could not but be greatly alarmed for the peace of the Carnatic, where we heard of the unexampled means by which Lord Pigot had endeavoured to usurp the powers of your government, by attempting to procure a majority in the Council by violence, in order to sanctify his measures. Thus deprived of the aid on which we had depended from the integrity of a large majority of the members of your late Council, who had steadfastly opposed the hostile measures adopted by his Lordship against the Nabob; what hope could we any longer entertain, that our orders on these points, which were contained in our letter the 7th August, would not be either openly disobeyed or covertly eluded, when the execution of them was thus left to the discretion of that power which they now meant to controul. Notwithstanding what has followed, we are not yet freed from our apprehensions; we therefore judge it necessary to give you this notice, that our final resolution on the charges preferred by the Nabob against your late President only remains suspended; and that if any change shall have taken place since the date of your last advices, which shall make it necessary for us to recur to the opinions which we have already delivered upon them, we shall not fail to proceed to the last extremities, warranted by the controuling powers vested in us by the late regulating act of Parliament, for the preservation of the national faith, and of the Company's engagements with their ally the Nabob of the Carnatic.

7. " Sensibly concerned, as we are, for the disorders which have unhappily taken place in the government of Fort St. George, we must still continue to feel the most painful apprehensions of the consequences which may ensue from such convulsions; we earnestly desire, therefore, that you will furnish us with constant advices of every subsequent transaction which may have any relation to this unfortunate affair, and in which the general interest of the Company may be eventually concerned, to enable us at all times to be prepared to contribute our aid by any means that may be necessary to conduce to the safety of your settlement.

8. " To remove every possibility of a doubt, that the whole powers of your Board rests in a majority of its members, we transmit you an extract of a general letter ¶ which we have lately received from the Honourable Court of Directors by the Lioness, wherein you will find their sentiments very clearly expressed.

9. " We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes, with the resolutions we have formed under the present circumstances with respect to your presidency, and to request, that he will unite with us in the support of your authority and government.

We are,

Fort William,  
Sept. 10, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

WARREN HASTINGS.  
J. CLAVERING.  
RICHARD BARWELL.  
P. FRANCIS.

\* Informing the Governor-general and Council of Lord Pigot having attempted to suspend Messrs. Stratton and Brooke.

† Lord Pigot's letter must have contained an account of his arrest.

‡ By Lord Pigot's letter.

§ The letter of the majority, by the partiality of Capt. Tucker, captain of a country ship, for Lord Pigot did not arrive at Calcutta so soon as his Lordship's letter sent by Mr. Mordaunt.

¶ Extract of the Company's general letter, dated the 31st of January 1776, per Lioness, Par. 17. " It is our express command, that no meeting of our Council (the members having been duly summoned) shall be dissolved or adjourned by the authority of our Governor-general, or of any President for the time being, without the consent of a majority of members present at every such meeting of our said Council." Par. 18. " And if it shall hereafter happen that the Governor-general, or any other member or members of Council, not being a majority, shall think proper to withdraw from the Council Board, and leave a majority of the whole Council sitting, and if such a majority shall be of opinion that it may be necessary, and for the good of our service, to proceed to the dispatch of the public business, we hereby direct, that they continue to sit so long (and to adjourn from time to time) as they shall think requisite for our interest so to do: and that their minutes, resolutions, and proceedings shall be recorded in the same book and form as would have been the case if no member had withdrawn." Par. 19. " It is our further commands, that all orders which shall be issued by such majority so assembled in Council as aforesaid, to any of our servants in Bengal, civil or military, be implicitly obeyed, in the same manner, to all intents and purposes, as though such orders had been authorized and signed by all the members of our said Council."



*To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot.*

" My Lord,

" WE have been honoured with your letter from the Mount, dated 29th August, by the Triton. We had previously received by the Shrewsbury a letter, dated the 23d, from the Majority of the Council, which impressed us with the deepest concern for the unhappy excesses to which the differences in your Council had then proceeded; and although the terms of their letter, and of the protest contained in it, gave us reason to expect the most alarming consequences, yet we confess the account of your confinement filled us with equal anxiety and surprize.

" Having maturely weighed the subject of the respective advices before us, our duty obliges us, however reluctantly, to take a part in these unhappy contentions, and we wish it were possible for us to reconcile it to the high esteem which we bear for your Lordship's character, and the extensive services you have formerly rendered to the Company; but the occasion is too urgent and critical to admit of suspense and indecision. We therefore deem it incumbent on us to declare, that the rights and powers of the Governor and Council of any of the Company's Presidencies are vested by their original constitution in the Majority of the Board; that the violence committed by your Lordship, in excluding two of the Members of the Council of Fort St. George from their places, was a violation of that constitution; that the measures taken by the Majority to recover the actual Government, which of right is vested in them, arose from the necessity of the case, and that we shall acknowledge and support the title and authority which they consequently possess: in doing this it is sufficient for us to know that we are supporting the legal and constitutional Government of the Company, though we are not yet perfectly informed of all the train of facts which have brought the Government of Madras into the present situation.

" To remove every possibility of a doubt, which your Lordship may entertain, that the whole powers of the Government exist in a Majority of the Members of the Council, we think it proper to transmit you an extract of a General Letter, which we have lately received from the Honourable the Court of Directors, by the Lionsess, wherein you will find their sentiments very clearly exprelled.

" We should have been happy to have had it in our power, by acting as mediators, to effect a reconciliation between you and the other Members of the Council; and we should have preferred this method, had we not feared that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of success in promoting that desirable end might have been attended with consequences more fatal than any which can result from our present decided resolution.

" We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes with the part which we have resolved to take on this occasion, that he may act consistently therewith, in case the situation of the Company's affairs should be such as to make it requisite for him to take an active part in the decisions of your government, which we earnestly hope will never happen,

We are,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servants,

Fort William,  
10th September, 1776.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,  
J. CLAVERING,  
RICHARD BARWELL,  
P. FRANCIS."

*Letter from the  
Council of Madras  
together with the  
letter to Mr. Hastings*



Letter from the  
to the  
to the